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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PORTUGAL: NEW GOVERNMENT CLOSE--AIR FORCE FEELS
SLIGHTED

AFTER CONVERSATIONS WITH AIR FORCE CAPTAIN ROSA, WHO HAS
BACKED THE ANTUNES GROUP, AND WITH VASCO LOURENCO, WHO HEADS
THE COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH RESTRUCTURING THE REVOLUTIONARY
COUNCIL, EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW
GOVERNMENT IS CLOSE, ALTHOUGH:

--THE PCP IS STILL DRAGGING ITS FEET OVER ACCEPTANCE OF
THE TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO AND IS UPSET BY ITS EX-
CLUSION FROM THE INFORMATION MINISTRY.

--THE AIR FORCE IS UNHAPPY ABOUT ITS EXCLUSION FROM THE
NEGOTIATIONS AND OVER ROSA'S NOT BEING MADE MINISTER OF
LABOR. (ROSA FEARS THE AIR FORCE MAY, IF BADLY TREATED,

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INCREASINGLY TURN TO SPINOLA.)

--ARMY MAJOR ALMEIDA, WHO WAS GIVEN THE LABOR PORTFOLIO IN WHAT THE EMBASSY REGARDS AS A SOP TO THE PCP, IS SEEN BY MANY AS A COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER.

--IF LOURENCO'S RESTRUCTURING PLAN IS ADOPTED, THE ANTI-COMMUNIST GROUP WILL HAVE A CLEAR MAJORITY IN THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE EXCLUSION OF THE AIR FORCE AND ROSA IS UNDERSTANDABLE ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF A DECISION BY THE ANTUNES NINE, CERTAINLY WITH THE BACKING OF THE PRESIDENT, TO THROW THE COMMUNISTS A BONE. THE ANTI-COMMUNIST MILITARY CONTINUES TO OVERESTIMATE THE PCP'S STRENGTH. (SECRET)
LISBON 5422 (EXDIS), 9/15.)

2. LEBANON: VIOLENCE CONTINUES

FOLLOWING MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER KARAME AND PLO LEADER ARAFAT, LEFTIST LEADER KEMAL JUMBLATT BOWED TO OVERWHELMING PRESSURE FROM MOSLEM AND MODERATE FEDAYEEN GROUPS AND CALLED OFF A GENERAL STRIKE THREATENED FOR SEPTEMBER 15. HOWEVER, JUMBLATT'S MOVE APPEARS TO HAVE ALSO BEEN INFLUENCED BY:

--THE REJECTION OF THE STRIKE BY BEIRUT MERCHANTS AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT;

--POSSIBLE POLITICAL CONCESSIONS FROM PRIME MINISTER KARAME.

IN SPITE OF THIS GOOD NEWS, TENSIONS CONTINUE HIGH WITH SPORADIC CLASHES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND A CONSIDERABLE ESCALATION OF INCIDENTS IN BEIRUT. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 11557, 9/15.)

3. MAKARIOS AND DENKTASH EXACERBATE CYPRUS DISPUTE

EMBASSY NICOSIA REPORTS THAT THE MAJOR STATEMENTS OF BOTH MAKARIOS AND DENKTASH OVER THE WEEKEND WILL MAKE RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS MORE REMOTE AND PROBLEMATIC:

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--DENKTASH THREATENED A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IF HE IS NOT RECOGNIZED AS MAKARIOS' EQUAL IN THE FORTHCOMING UNGA DEBATE AND IF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS DO NOT RETURN TO THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.

--MAKARIOS CHARGED VEHEMENTLY THAT THE TURKS HAVE NOT NEGOTIATED SERIOUSLY, MAINTAINED THAT THE UNGA DEBATE

IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN A LONG STRUGGLE NOW FACING CYPRUS, AND STRONGLY CRITICIZED THOSE WHO SUPPORT LIFTING THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO.

EMBASSY COMMENT: DENKTASH'S STATEMENT, BESIDES GIVING MAKARIOS USEFUL AMMUNITION, STEMS FROM THE TURKISH FEELING OF BEING INCREASINGLY MISUNDERSTOOD AND ISOLATED, WITH THEIR ONLY RECOURSE THAT OF STRIKING OUT ON THEIR OWN REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES. MAKARIOS' STATEMENT REFLECTED THE GREEK CYPRIOT BELIEF THAT THEY ARE IN A GOOD POSITION IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO RECEIVE MEANINGFUL SUPPORT. COMPARED TO THE SLIGHTLY HOPEFUL POST-VIENNA III PERIOD, THE PROSPECT NOW IS FOR SIDETRACKED NEGOTIATIONS AND SHARPLY INCREASED AND POISONED RHETORIC FROM EACH COMMUNITY. (CONFIDENTIAL) NICOSIA 2758, 9/15.)

4. GREECE: REACTION TO SYG LUNS' WASHINGTON VISIT

THE GOG IS DISTRESSED WITH NATO SYG LUNS' VISIT TO WASHINGTON, IN PARTICULAR BY HIS REPORTED REMARK THAT GREECE HAD NOT OBJECTED TO HIS MISSION. A GOG SPOKESMAN DENIED THIS AND POINTED OUT THE LUNS MISSION CONSTITUTED AN UNJUSTIFIED PERSONAL INITIATIVE UNAUTHORIZED BY THE COUNCIL. THE EQUALLY UNHAPPY GREEK PRESS:

-CALLED GENERAL HAIG A LUNS ACCOMPLICE FOR SUPPORTING THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO;

--ATTEMPTED TO SHOW THE SECRETARY DISAPPROVED BY REPORTING HIS REMARK THAT LUNS WENT ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE.

AN MFA OFFICIAL SAID, HOWEVER, THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE THE GOG
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HAD NO INTENTION OF PUSHING THE POINT FURTHER AT THE DECEMBER MEETING. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ATHENS 7040, 9/15.)

5. FRANCE TO ANNOUNCE AID FOR EGYPT

MFA CABINET DIRECTOR JEAN-CLAUDE PAYE TOLD EMBASSY PARIS
SEPTEMBER 15:

--NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN SOON ON A FRENCH LOAN TO EGYPT TOTALLING BETWEEN \$40 AND \$50 MILLION.

--TO UNDERScore THE BILATERAL, I.E. NON-CONSORTIUM, NATURE OF THE FRENCH EFFORT THE LOAN IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ANNOUNCED PRIOR TO GISCARD'S DECEMBER VISIT TO CAIRO. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 23718 (LIMDIS), 9/15.)

6. SPINOLA RETURNS TO BRAZIL

GENERAL SPINOLA HAS DEPARTED PARIS FOR BRAZIL FOLLOWING A TEN-DAY STAY. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY PARIS, THE VISIT WAS AIMED AT DEVELOPING EXPLICIT SCENARIOS FOR EXPLOITING POPULAR UPRISINGS WHICH SPINOLA IS CONVINCED WILL FOLLOW THE GOP'S FAILURE TO RESOLVE ITS POLITICAL IMPASSE. (SECRET) PARIS 23665 (LIMDIS), 9/15.)

7. ARGENTINA: DAMASCO OUSTED

EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES REPORTED BY PHONE LATE SEPTEMBER 15 THAT ARGENTINE INTERIOR MINISTER DAMASCO HAS BEEN REPLACED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ROBLEDO. UNPOPULAR WITH MANY IN THE MILITARY, DAMASCO'S PRESTIGE AND AUTHORITY WERE SEVERELY REDUCED IN AUGUST WHEN HE WAS FORCED TO RETIRE FROM THE ARMY. (NO BACKUP) SISCO

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